

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

16 DIVINITY AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

March 6, 1957

Dear Joshua

I am very glad to receive your letter and I would like to thank you for your kind words.

I am very glad to say how much I hope that you accept the offer to come to

Harvard and become a member of this department. I think I can very fairly say that the spirit

of this department is changing very rapidly and that the President and Dean Bowditch will support

very strongly our efforts to make this the most alive laboratory of experimental Biology in this

country. There is certainly now no need to convince the people here that modern biology is

here to stay and that new appointments must be made in that direction.

I certainly have had no regrets about coming here - In fact I'm terribly pleased to

be here. When I was raised in the mid-west, I was frequently told that Harvard was a

frightfully stuffy place and I could never imagine myself wanting to be a part of it. This,

however is just not true and it would be very hard to find more genuine people than John

Forsell or Kenneth Thimann. I have been and in the future will be even more strongly connected

with Forsell since last fall I got involved with him when we got a grant (\$130,000) to build up a

modern laboratory for protein chemistry and it is my intention to concentrate as much as possible

upon precise characterizations of the proteins and nucleic acids of viruses and bacteria. We

also have an application with the NSF to procure a new Siemens, by far the best EM here

available.

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In the long term, however, I feel the future of this department must be in embryology

(in a broad sense), and in those problems which relate to growth. It is the very important

upon we get along these lines. We have tried to persuade Austin Mitchell to come here, and  
and will

Despite his first refusal, we have not given up hope. I certainly feel he is the best person we

have got that we plan now to bring him along, not for next year  
couple, especially as he comes from genetics. There is also the possibility that Moscone will be

brought here again and soon returning but that was a slight few signals of hindrance but do  
here, at least for next year.

not a real interview to potential candidates but all signs of choice are present now

I am finding this Cambridge and the Boston region a very pleasant environment

to myself rather than living at Harvard it does not seem quite so good  
to live it. I know that MacLean is very nice but I think this is equally as good, and

definitely not in Boston and these advantages are not the only ones of course  
certainly in some cultural ways (music) there is no finer place to live. There is also the fact that

Harvard is a great school and has a good record of research and teaching. I am not  
sure about the faculty - there is something very comforting about being a member of its

faculty - there is a security which very few universities can offer. The University of Chicago is one, but  
I do not know if it provides the same range of opportunities as Harvard. (This might  
besides it, there are very few.

and with strong family and friends you would find the best place to live

I am quite aware that we have much to gain if you come here - on the other hand,  
you would also lose a great deal of time which you could not afford to lose

I would also guess that you and Estee would also benefit for I feel most strongly that

Harvard and its tradition for learning and liberal ~~theoretical~~ ideas is a most splendid place  
for young people to start their academic careers. The atmosphere existing at Harvard makes

to be. I have nothing to say regarding the financial side of things but I am sure you  
will find all of your needs met in easily in \$300.00 per month plus room and board.

With best regards to both you and Estee